purposes like promotion and exploitation of ocean development, bio-technology, non-conventional energy, food processing industry etc.; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any programme for reviewing the performance of those new Departments which have completed five years to find out whether they have achieved the objectives for which they were set up?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The working of the Departments are kept under regular review, through the examination of the Ministries/Departments by the Parliamentary Committees like the Estimates Committee, Public Accounts Committee etc. The Annual Reports of the Departments are also placed before the Parliament. Important programmes and schemes are also reviewed from time to time.

Implementation of reservation quota for SC/ST in CSIR laboratories

599. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any exemption is in operation at present from the purview of the reservation orders for SC/ST in higher grade at posts under CSIR laboratories/institutes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any reservation has not been made for Assessment/Promotion of SC/ST while implementing a new policy named as MANAS; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) The Government of India instructions on reservation upto and inclusive of lowest rung of Group 'A' are being followed in CSIR and its laboratories/ institutes. Though there is no reservation in the higher posts, candidates belonging to SC/ST categories are considered for these posts by relaxed standards.

(c) and (d) Since normal assessment/promotion under Merit and Normal Assessment Scheme is not vacancy based, reservation is not possible. However, SC/ST candidates are judged by a relaxed standard with a lower percentage of threshold marks for assessment/promotion by 10 per cent as compared to general candidates. The interests of SC/ST candidates covered under the Scheme are further safeguarded by inclusion of a member of SC/ST on the assessment committee.

Reservation quota for SC/STs. in CSIR Laboratories and Institutes

600. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether reservation quota for SC/ST empoyees of higher grade posts has not been filled in CSIR laboratories/institutes;

(b) whether any special efforts would be made to complete the reservation quota, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) CSIR laboratories/institutes have made consistent effort to fill up the vacancies reserved for SC/ST candidates. As a result of these efforts out of 97 vacant posts reserved for SC/ST candidates in Group 'A', 86 posts have been filled upto July, 1991.

Radio-active contamination of Steel Bars imported by USA from India

601. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 20,0 tonnes of imported Steel from India found by the US Nuclear Regul Commission to be contaminated by

activity as per the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times, dated August 18, 1991 under the heading "Indian Steel Bars Contaminated";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in this regard to stop such exports in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir, the Government is aware of the news item that appeared in the press regarding contaminated steel product imported by USA.

(b) As per the informtaion received from the United States Nuclear Regultatory Commission some fencing components imported from India from M/s. Katia Steel Rolling Works in Calcutta were found to be contaminated with Cobalt-60. The preliminary radiological assessment carried out by US NRC had shown that the radioactive contamination found in the fencing material does not pose a significant threat to public health in the United States.

(c) Detailed investigations have been initiated at the Katia Steel Rolling Works by the Department of Atomic Energy. The presently used raw materials the plant show only very low radiation levels. However, it was observed that the scrap generated in the factory during earlier melting had above normal radiation levels. The factory authorities have been instructed not to dispose of this scrap and not to export the finished products till they are cleared by BARC. Further investigations are being carried out to survey all the units which had earlier supplied raw materials including imported scrap to M|s. Katia Steel Rolling Works. On the basis of the results of the above investigations steps would be taken by the Indian regulatory authorities to ensure stricter controls and prevent recurrence.

Poor performance of Core sector

602. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Core Sector which includes Power, Coal, Oils, Shipping & Road Transport etc. has fared badly during the year 1990-91 as compared to 1989-90;

(b) if so, whether Government have analysed the reasons for the poor performance of this sector the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to increase the production during the current year so as to make good the losses suffered last years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir. As per monitoring system of the Deptt. of Progrmme Implementation, in respect of nine infrastructure sectors, namely, Power, Coal, Steel, Cement Fertilizer, Petroleum, Railways, Shipping and Telecommunication, the performance in 1990-91 compared to 1989-90 has been positive except in case of petroleum (crude oil). The details are given in the statement.

(b) In case of crude oil production the performance in 1990-91 was below the level of achievement of 1989-90 due to leakages from certain sub-sea pipelines, reservoir considerations (pressure decline, increase in Gas to Oil Ratio (GOR) and water cut), officers strike, delays in implementation of certain schemes and agitations, bandhs and oil blockades in Assam.

(c) With a view to increase crude oil production, a number of exploration projects are being taken up by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. However, their impact on production of crude oil is likely to be felt only after 3-3 years in view of the gestation period of these projects.